Numb. 70.

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *Britiſh* Trade, &c.

From **Saturday**, October 31. to **Tueſday**, November 3. 1713.

THE laſt *MERCATOR* having made ſome mention of the Virginia Merchants, has, as may be ſuppoſed, given occaſion to the following Letter, which helps us to ſome Account of the Intereſt the ſaid Merchants have in the French Trade; and it ſeems therefore very proper to be made Publick.

To the Mercator.

SIR,

" THE Virginia Trade has ſo great an Intereſt in " the Treaty of Commerce, that I knew it could " not be long, before you muſt take Notice of it; " and therefore I waited till I ſhould find you began on " that Subject.

" Perhaps you may not know, that the Dutch are " become our Rivals in that Trade, as much as in any " Trade we now carry on; and it is not the leaſt Rea- " ſon why they engage all their Friends here, and raiſe " all the Clamour they are able to make, in order to " prevent the Treaty being made Effectual.

" This may ſeem ſtrange to thoſe, who think the " Dutch have all their Tobacco from England, as I " hear ſome People would have us believe; but in this, " as in the reſt of this Quarrel, it is Ignorance makes " People Rail; and your Oppoſers have as great a " Share of it as any People, that ever undertook to " Defend a Cauſe of ſuch a Nature.

" You cannot but know, that altho' the Dutch do " buy ſome Tobacco of us, yet that they Plant at this " time ſo prodigious a Quantity, that including what " grows in the adjoining Countries of Cleve, Liege, " and Spaniſh Guelderland, they ſend abroad, beſides " their own Conſumption, near One hundred thou- " ſand Hogſheads a Year; a great Quantity of this " they ſend now into France, where the Conſumption " of Tobacco is very much encreaſed ſince the War: " For this Reaſon they would, at any Price, prevent " the taking off the Limitation laid upon the Engliſh " Selling their Tobacco, becauſe it would let in the " Engliſh Tobacco in too great Quantities into France, " which being better than the Dutch Tobacco, would " hinder the Sale of theirs, and leſſen their Trade.

" There is another Thing, which thoſe, who Oppoſe " this Treaty do not foreſee, (viz.) That if the Mono- " poly of the Farmers is not taken off in France, with " reſpect to the Tobacco, which makes the Price ex- " ceeding dear, we ſhall find, in a few Years, the " French People fall to Planting their own Tobacco; " which will not only hinder our Vent, but in effect " ruin our Virginia Trade, which is low enough al- " ready: But I ſay no more of this, becauſe I ſee you " have touch'd at it in your laſt. In the mean time, " Sir, I hope you cannot think any Virginia Merchant " in England, who is in his right Wits, can be againſt " the Bill of Commerce. I ſhall take the liberty to " trouble you again on this Head.

Your Humble Servant, ——

The *MERCATOR* will not take upon him to ſay, as this Letter ſeems to ſuppoſe, that all the Virginia Merchants are for the Bill of Commerce: That it is their true Intereſt, as Virginia Merchants, is undeniable, That Trade being at the very brink of Ruin for want of a Market, and being, as is Noted before, ſupplanted by the Dutch. But we muſt not think it ſtrange at this time to ſee Men act againſt their True Intereſt, and without the Uſe of their Wits, when Men embark in a Party with ſo much warmth as we ſee now practiſed among us; the True Intereſt of their Country has very ſmall Influence upon them, unleſs it happens to Conform to their Party-Intereſt alſo: And this is an unanſwerable Evidence, that the Oppoſition made to the Bill of Commerce is not really from a diſlike of the Trade, but to carry on a private Deſign of another Nature, and to propagate the Party-Diviſions, which now reign among us.

If it were not thus, it were impoſſible, that ſome Men, whoſe Intereſt, as to Trade, muſt be ſupported by this Bill, and by no other Thing, could come into the Parties, that now Oppoſe it.

The Conſequence of our Virginia Trade is too well known to need one word to be ſpoken in its behalf: The ſinking Circumſtances of that Trade are but too obvious; the Ruin of Two thirds of the Nation within theſe few Years makes it plain; and that the whole Plantation will ſink, or great part of it be turn'd to meer Arable and Paſture, unleſs ſomething be done to retrieve it, is ſo well known, that it is believed, there is not a Virginia Merchant in England, but will own it.

The French are the only Nation left, who we had any hope from as to the Virginia Trade; they were not much uſed to ſmoke Tobacco till within theſe Twenty Years, when, all on a ſudden, they are fallen into the Uſe of Tobacco at a moſt prodigious Rate: During the late War, the Dutch having the Wit in Trade, which we wanted, (viz.) To keep an open Trade with France, ſupplied them wholly; and, if we may believe ſome Merchants, who have reaſon to know, the Dutch have ſent to France Forty Thouſand Hogſheads of Tobacco a Year, for ſome Years paſt.

No wonder they are willing to have us ſtill ſhut out of this Trade, eſpecially if they can bring us to ſhut

our

ourſelves out; for if we had the Treaty of Commerce made Effectual, great part of that Trade would be ours: And to put it out of the Power of the Oppoſers of this Trade to Cavil at what we ſay, they may ſee here what Quantities of Tobacco have been Exported in a few Days, at ſeveral times, ſince the Peace, altho' the Trade is yet under the Burthen of the Monopoly and Farms in France.

For Example.

By the laſt *MERCATOR* we find, that between the 20th of Auguſt and the 24th of October, being the laſt two Months, there was Exported to France from the Port of London only, 455,449 l. of Tobacco.

Which, reckoning 4 C. 2qr. to each Hogſhead neat Tobacco, is near a thouſand Hogſheads.

This is a large Quantity; but this is nothing to what was Exported thither in the beginning of the preſent Year, as may appear from the following Particulars taken out of the Cuſtom-houſe Books, as follows.

From the 9th to the 28th of February laſt incluſive, being juſt three Weeks, there was Exported at the Port of London, and Entered for France, 660,415 l. of Virginia Tobacco. Suppoſe 500 neat Pounds to each Hogſhead, this is 1321 Hogſheads, *leſs* 85 *Pounds weight*, all Exported to France in 3 Weeks time.

From the 16th of March to the 10th of April laſt, being 3 Weeks 4 Days, was Exported for France from the Port of London only, 785,560 l. weight of Virginia Tobacco; which, at 500 neat Pounds to a Hogſhead, is 1571 Hogſheads, *more* 60 *Pounds weight*.

So that in 6 Weeks and 4 Days we ſent to France near 3000 Hogſheads of Tobacco. What the whole Years Export may be, ſhall be ſhewn in its place.

If the Virginia Merchants, who know the Diſtreſs their Trade has been in for want of a Market, and how they have been anticipated by the Dutch, can look on theſe Accounts, and then ſay they are againſt opening the Trade with France, they muſt be Infatuated in a manner that no Men of Trade ever were before them; and it will be an eminent Proof of what was ſaid before, that the Prepoſſeſſion of Parties has over-ruled both their Reaſon and their Intereſt.

In order to give the Nation a truer Idea of the French Trade, and ſhew them, how conſiderable it is even NOW, under all the Diſadvantages, which it ſuffers for want of taking off the higher Duties in France by the Bill of Commerce; there ſhall be incerted, as an Advertiſement at the End of this Paper, a daily Account of Goods Exported to France from the Port of London only, including the Word FLANDERS, for ſuch Goods, as we are ſatisfied are ſhipped on board Veſſels bound to France.

The Goods Enter'd to Flanders are marked with this Mark (*).

Exported to France in two Days, (viz.) Octob. 26. & 27.

12	Spaniſh Cloths
750	Yards Flannel
2	Saddles
7379 l.	Cotton Wooll
37	Bags of Cotton Wooll, weight 177
10360	——————uſually 2 C. 2q. each
10 C. 1 q.	Pewter
6300	Horn Plates
9	Gallons of Canary
50	Glaſſes
40 C.	Allom
16 C.	Glue
6 C.	Coffee
9 C.	Gauls
900 l.	Pimento
380 C.	Logwood
13631 l.	Virginia Tobacco
38 C.	Madder
* 372 C.	Brown Sugar.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

*** The Importance of the Guardian conſider'd, in a Second Letter to the Bailiff of Stockbridge. By a Friend of Mr. St—le. Printed for John Morphew, near Stationer's Hall, Price 6 *d.* *** Part of the Seventh Epiſtle of the Firſt Book of Horace, Imitated: And Addreſs'd to a Noble Peer. Printed for A. Dodd, at the Peacock without Temple-Bar. Price 3 Pence.

On Thurſday will be Publiſh'd, (uſeful for thoſe, who would underſtand the French Trade)

†††. The French Book of Rates: Being a Collection of the Tariffs and Regulations of the Duties both of Importation and Exportation of Merchandizes in France; with the particular Edicts, Arreſts, and Declarations, ſettling and eſtabliſhing the ſame in all the reſpective Cuſtom-Houſes of France. Done out of French. Sold by A. Bell, at the Croſs-Keys, and J. Round, in Exchange-Alley in Cornhill, J. Baker, in Pater-Noſter-Row, and W. Brand and J. Kent, at the Middle Temple-Gate in Fleetſtreet.

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